

# Focus on Fifth

Weekly News for Holmes Fifth-Grade Families

News and Events in the 5th Grade

January 7, 2013

[www.op97.org](http://www.op97.org)

## Important Dates

December 21 - Jan 25	Rocket into Reading Begins
January 14	Specials Night (6:00-8:00)
January 15	Family Literacy Night (6:30-8:00)
January 21	No School (Martin Luther King Jr. Day)

## Dear Families,

Welcome back! We hope you all had a very restful and joyous break. We are looking forward to a busy and productive second semester.

Save the Date for the Holmes School Family Literacy Night! It will be held on Tuesday, January 15, 2013 from 6:30 pm-8:00 pm. The night will entail teachers demonstrating educational activities and games that parents and students can do at home to help strengthen reading strategies.

---

### Specials Night is Monday, January 14th at 6 pm!

Parents: you will get to see some of your student's achievements in art, music, physical education, library, and Spanish! Every student in the 5th grade has a special part in the event so please send a note to Mrs. Karia if you are unable to attend.

**We need parent volunteers to help with leading classes from location to location and with taping the event. Please email Mrs. Karia at [akaria@op97.org](mailto:akaria@op97.org) if you can help!**

**Please check the digital backpack for more information!**

**Art** - [Dale Chihuly](#) is an American glass blower with colorful glass sculptures on display all over the world. We have looked carefully at his artwork and watched several videos on [glass blowing](#). Of course, we cannot blow glass, but we have found an exciting alternative. The results will be on display at Specials Night on 1/14.

**Music** - [Check out the website!](#) **Specials Night is Monday, January 14th at 6 pm!** Every student in the 5th grade has a special part in the night so please send a note to Mrs. Karia if you are unable to attend. We will be working on the pieces for the specials night over the next few weeks.

**Spanish** - The fifth graders will continue work this week for Specials Night. We will be working on a song in collaboration with music class. Spanish blog: <http://www.mpoleski.blogspot.com/>

**Library** - Welcome back. I hope everyone had a wonderful winter holiday filled with lots of BOOKS! The Rocket into Reading program kicked off just before the break and will continue through January 25. Be sure to log the minutes you read each night (or hours, as it may be). If you're taking part in the Spring Reading Olympics, reading for that counts, too! For specials night on **Monday, January 14**, students will be sharing the cookbooks they created before the winter holiday. Be sure to check out the library while you're in the building for art, music, PE, and Spanish. For more on library happenings, please keep up with us on the library home page (<http://www.op97.org/holmes/>)

[mediacenter/](#).

**Physical Education** - Please see Mr. Williams' link ([www.d97mrwilliams.blogspot.com](http://www.d97mrwilliams.blogspot.com)) for information.

### **Reading/Literature**

Since we finished the book Rules before winter break, we will be returning to treasures to finish up unit 3. This week we will be reading the story Blancaflor as we focus on theme and figurative language. We will also review the latin roots we studied in December. As usual, we will be having our weekly comprehension and spelling test on Friday.

### **Language Arts**

This week in language arts we will teach lessons on keyboarding/computer skills, as well as give students time to practice their typing in class.

### **Math**

Students received new Study Links and Journals today as we began Unit 8. In this unit, we will begin by learning to add and subtract mixed numbers. We will then move on to fraction multiplication and division. There will be a short quiz on Friday covering what students learned this week. Beginning this Wednesday, we will spend our Wednesday class periods working on ISAT extended response problems. A math extended response is scored on three areas: Mathematical Knowledge (Do you know it?), Strategic Knowledge (How did you plan?) and Explanation (Can you explain it?). We will take a look at scored examples in addition to working on the problems themselves.

### **Science**

This week in science we will review the scientific method and discuss the timeline and process for the science fair. All students will participate in the science fair. The first deadline is this Friday, when students will need to turn in three possible testable questions to investigate. Students will need to conduct all experiments at home. More Information is posted on the fifth grade wiki in the science section (<http://holmes5thgradescience.wikispaces.com/Science+Fair>) and information will come home with your student. Please be sure to ask about progress frequently. Throughout the Variables unit, we will be conducting labs almost every week. We reminded students before the break that if they miss Science class due to Band, Orchestra or Chorus, it is their responsibility to get lab data from a group member.

### **Social Studies**

This week we will discuss what life was like for colonists in the middle colonies. We will also take a closer look at William Penn's and Benjamin Franklin's contributions to our country, as well as the impact of the Quakers in the colonies. Students will have a quiz on Friday over the Middle Colonies.

Visit the **Holmes Digital Backpack** - <http://www.op97.org/holmes/digitalbackpack/>

**We're on the Web!**

Visit us at: <http://holmes5thgrade.wikispaces.com/>

Ms. Kraft  
[fkraft@op97.org](mailto:fkraft@op97.org)

Ms. Manuel  
[mmanuel@op97.org](mailto:mmanuel@op97.org)

Ms. Peterson  
[apeterson@op97.org](mailto:apeterson@op97.org)

Ms. Yigzaw  
[svigzaw@op97.org](mailto:svigzaw@op97.org)